

HIERARCHICAL DOCUMENT CROSS-REFERENCING SYSTEM AND METHOD

Abstract

5 A hierarchical document cross-reference system comprises a document server
computer remotely accessible by a user computer. The document server computer
includes a database which stores the contents of a first document and a second
document. The first document contains one or more segments and the second document
contains one or more segments. Each segment is identified by a segment identifier.
The document server computer also includes a module executable in the document
10 server computer. The module is configured to receive a request to cross-reference the
first document and the second document on a key phrase. The module searches the first
document and the second document for the key phrase and identifies the segments in the
documents containing the key phrase. The module then displays on the user computer a
side-by-side display listing the segment identifiers for the identified segments. The
15 segment identifiers for the identified segments in the first document containing the key
phrase are displayed in a first list and the segment identifiers for the identified segments
in the second document containing the key phrase are displayed in a second list. The
user can subsequently select a segment identifier from each list and submit the segment
identifiers for display. The module then displays the contents of each segment, with the
20 key phrase highlighted in a distinct color or by other means.

PATENT

25 H:\DOCS\MJK\MJK-2049.DOC
111300